## Handbook for Family and Friends

## Can inmates receive packages/other items through the mail?

There are a limited number of items that can be sent to the inmate through the mail. No "cash on delivery" packages will be accepted. The following items may be received through the mail and are always subject to inspection:

- 1. Clothing approved for use while in prison for those inmates who have been granted community based privileges
- 2. Clothing to be used upon release, if received within 15 days of release date
- 3. Unframed photographs, no larger than an 8" x 10"
- 4. Legal papers
- 5. Pre-approved publications
- 6. Certain religious items
- 7. Money should be sent by money order, cashiers check, or certified check.

Approved items may vary from one prison facility to another due to the security level of the facility. It is recommended that contact be made with the prison facility where the inmate is housed before mailing any items.

## Can an inmate receive legal assistance?

When an inmate is admitted into the Division of Prisons, he or she is advised of available legal assistance from the legal service contractor. Contact between inmate and the legal service contractor is made by letter or personal visit by the attorney or paralegal. When an inmate's request for assistance is received, the legal service contractor will review the request and provide a written response to the inmate. The current legal services contractor is:

North Carolina Prisoner Legal Services, Inc. (NCPLS) PO Box 25397 Raleigh NC 27611 919-856-2200

If an inmate wants to use NCPLS to file for a divorce he or she needs to write to the address above to request a divorce packet.

www.doc.state.nc.us